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LaRouche supporters denied use of schools

By Michael Martz Times-Mirror Staff Writer

The philosophical parent organization of groups associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. planned to use Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville for a conference of 700-900 people this weekend, but school authorities denied the request for lack of school staff to supervise use of the buildings.

The International Caucus of Labor Committees asked to use the Valley auditorium, cafeteria and two classrooms for a conference of ICLC members and their guests on July 5-7.

George F. Atwell, assistant superintendent for support services, said he denied the request because adequate school staff would not be available over the weekend, since it follows the July 4 holiday.

The ICLC will move the conference to Arlington in Fairfax County, a spokesman said, since those jurisdictions "are better set up to rent schools to outside groups than the Loudoun schools appear to be."

The spokesman, who is a member of the ICLC board of directors, described the organization as "the international philosophical association headed by Mr. LaRouche."

He estimated its membership at roughly 500-600 people, most of them in the United States. It has no official headquarters, but most LaRouche-affiliated organizations now are based either in Washington or Leesburg, where they have moved from New York in the past year.

LaRouche, who has lived near Leesburg for almost two years, has run for the U.S. presidency twice. His supporters describe him as a controversial public figure who requires heavy security because of repeated assassination threats against him and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute, which operates Ben Franklin Booksellers in Leesburg.

The Schiller Institute and the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action group which recently held political education seminars in Leesburg, have headquarters in Washington.

But Campaigner Publications, the Executive Intelligence Review and related businesses have established headquarters in Leesburg, where they rent two floors of office space and have a printing facility under construction.

The ICLC holds these conferences twice a year, the spokesman said, describing them as "discussions on economics, the strategic situation, music, poetry...."

He would not say if the LaRouches plan to attend.

The only public event that La-Rouche organizations will stage this weekend is a performance of Mozart's Requiem on Sunday at J. Lupton Simpson Middle School.

The concert also has a political association.

The Schiller Institute sponsors it in memory of Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandhi, who was assassinated last year by her Sikh bodyguards.

The Requiem also will be performed privately for the ICLC conference.